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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/669,082	09/25/2000	Richard L. Scopp	6734.US.O1	3368
23492	7590	10/05/2005	EXAMINER	
ROBERT DEBERARDINE			DO, PENSEE T	
ABBOTT LABORATORIES			ART UNIT	
100 ABBOTT PARK ROAD			PAPER NUMBER	
DEPT. 377/AP6A			1641	
ABBOTT PARK, IL 60064-6008			DATE MAILED: 10/05/2005	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/669,082	Applicant(s) SCOPP ET AL.	
	Examiner Pensee T. Do	Art Unit 1641	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 July 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4-17 and 26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 2, 4-17 and 26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on July 29, 2005 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 1, 2, 4-17 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter, which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

The present specification fails to disclose the "unconjugated" large polycation as recited in the claims. The claims now recite adding an "unconjugated" large polycation in a sample to decrease interferences. However, the present specification fails to teach an "unconjugated" polycation. The present specification only teaches a large polycation. It does not teach an "unconjugated" large polycation. Thus, one of ordinary skills in the

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art would not assume that such large polycation is an "unconjugated" large polycation. Description and clear support of an "unconjugated" large polycation is required in the specification.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed July 29, 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The supports for an "***unconjugated***" polycation pointed out by Applicants are not persuasive. Applicants point out that "unconjugated polycation" is inherently disclosed in the specification based on the description on pages 2-4, 6 and examples 2-4 of the specification that the polycations added to the specific binding assays in the claim methods are unconjugated. No mention of conjugation to other molecules is made or described in the specification and thus it is inherent that the polycation is unconjugated. Applicants further mention that if these polycations were conjugated to one or more other molecules, these molecules would be identified as being included in the assay.

Since the "unconjugate" part is critical to the novelty of the invention, it must be clearly described in the specification, rather than being inherent. The specification fails to describe that the polycation added as a separate reagent is conjugated or unconjugated; or that the polycation is incorporated into the assay specific diluent as conjugated or unconjugated. Furthermore, regarding Applicants' arguments about the examples, that the anti-TSH antibody is conjugated to the TSH and not the polycations or that an acridinium label is conjugated to the anti-alpha TSH and not the polycation,

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the polycation does not have to be conjugated to the acridinium label or the TSH or the anti-TSH antibody. In fact, it can be conjugated to other molecules such as BSA (bovine serum albumin) for blocking non-specific binding on a solid phase. Usually BSA is well known to one of ordinary skills in the art and is often not mentioned if it was being used.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1, 2 4-17 and 26 are allowed over the prior arts.

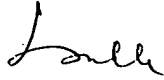
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Pensee T. Do whose telephone number is 571-272-0819. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 7:00-3:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Long Le can be reached on 571-272-0823. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Pensee T. Do
Patent Examiner
September 25, 2005


LONG V. LE
SUPERVISOR, PATENT EXAMINER
EBC CENTER 1000

01/30/05